

MOTHER'S GRAVE

DRAWER 11A

GRAVE SITES :

71.2009.085 05093



# Indiana Grave Sites

## Nancy Hanks Lincoln Grave

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

GRAVE OF LINCOLN'S MOTHER

Nancy Hanks Lincoln died Oct. 5, 1818, and was buried on a wooded hill, a few hundred feet from the Lincoln cabin. Brtn. I-115.

Extracts from Gen. James Veach Papers

in possession of

Miss Pet Enlow, Heckport, Ind.

-----

Letter-Veach to Fortune Sept. 21, 1881 - Boonville

" I think James Gentry Snr. purchased the Lincoln farm and Charles Grigsby now in Missouri was the first occupant of the house left by the Lincolns."

Letter - Veach to Dr. I. L. Milner, Treasurer of Committee

Evansville  
June 1, 1881

" I received from you through Charlie \$11.00 contributions collected for the Lincoln grave. I received from W. T. Mason 25cts and of R. T. Kercheval \$1.00 making \$12.25 and I have expended \$14.40

I have the promise of James Hammond of Dale to send me \$2.00 which will cover amount expended within 15 cts.

Our secretary, J. D. Armstrong suggests that on Saturday June 4th we make an effort to secure further contributions from the crowd visiting Lincoln City.

I will not be able to be on hand.

Will you select some who are going, to make a collection on that day."



LINCOLN'S MOTHER.

Her Neglected Grave in the Woods of Indiana.

GENTRYVILLE, Ind., May 14.—In a neglected piece of woodland on the outskirts of Lincoln City, two miles from this place, in Spencer county, is the grave of President Lincoln's mother. A marble slab four feet in height and almost buried in a dense growth of weeds and dog wood, bears the inscription:

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN,  
MOTHER OF  
PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

Died October 5, A. D. 1818, aged 35  
years. Erected by a Friend of Her  
Martyred Son, 1870.

At the foot of the grave is a small marble foot-stone with the letters "N. H. L." engraved upon it. Surrounding this grave are the graves of seven other persons, but there are no stones or monuments to identify the occupants of any of them, and all are sadly neglected. The deserted spot is but a short distance from the highway, but is so situated that it can be reached only by crossing cultivated fields. With the proper efforts the place might be made very attractive, however, and there is some talk among the people here of beautifying it and erecting a more costly stone over the Lincoln grave. The place is seldom visited by strangers and rarely by the people living hereabouts.

Not more than 300 yards north of the grave is the spot upon which stood the house in which lived President Lincoln while a young man. It was made of logs, of course, and was situated on a small rise of clayish looking ground. Not a vestige of the old structure remains.

The writer frequently visited the house before it succumbed to the ravages of time and the elements, as his uncle lived on, and cultivated for years that which has passed into history as the Lincoln farm. Just back of the spot where the house used to stand runs the Cannellton Branch of the road.

Time has nearly obliterated all traces of the Lincolns here, save the lonely grave in the deserted wood.

Lincoln City is so named because it is situated on the site of the old homestead. It had a population of about two dozen families and is the junction of the Evansville, Cannellton and Rockport Division of the Louisville, Evansville and St. Louis Railroad. Some Eastern capitalists, a few years ago, made an attempt to boom the place, but despite the magnetism of the name, the boom was not successful, and it is very doubtful if the place ever grows in population, as the land surrounding it is of a very poor quality.

Some of the old inhabitants of this vicinity tell how, in 1844, when Lincoln was an elector at large on the ticket with Henry Clay, he visited the home of his boyhood, squared his back up against the old stone school house and talked to his old friends and neighbors.

LINCOLN'S MOTHER.

Her Neglected Grave in the Woods of Indiana.

Special Correspondence of the Globe-Democrat.

GENTRYVILLE, IND., May 14.—In a neglected piece of woodland on the outskirts of Lincoln City, two miles from this place, in Spencer County, is the grave of President Lincoln's mother. A marble slab 4 feet in height and almost buried in a dense growth of weeds and dog wood, bears this inscription:

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN,  
MOTHER OF  
PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

Died October 5, A. D., 1818, aged 35  
years. Erected by a Friend of Her  
Martyred Son, 1870.

At the foot of the grave is a small marble foot-stone with the letters "N. H. L." engraved upon it. Surrounding this grave are the graves of seven other persons, but there are no stones or monuments to identify the occupants of any of them, and all are sadly neglected. The deserted spot is but a short distance from the highway, but is so situated that it can be reached only by crossing cultivated fields. With the proper efforts the place might be made very attractive, however, and there is some talk among the people here of beautifying it and erecting a more costly stone over the Lincoln grave. The place is seldom visited by strangers and rarely by the people living hereabouts.

Not more than 200 yards north of the grave is the spot upon which stood the house in which lived President Lincoln while a young man. It was made of logs, of course, and was situated on a small rise of clayish looking ground. Not a vestige of the old structure remains.

The writer frequently visited the house before it succumbed to the ravages of time and the elements, as his uncle lived on and cultivated for years that which has passed into history as the Lincoln farm. Just back of the spot where the house used to stand runs the Cannellton Branch of the road.

Time has nearly obliterated all traces of the Lincolns here, save the lonely grave in the deserted wood.

Lincoln City is so named because it is situated on the site of the old homestead. It had a population of about two dozen families and is the junction of the Evansville, Cannellton and Rockport Division of the Louisville, Evansville and St. Louis Railroad. Some Eastern capitalists, a few years ago, made an attempt to boom the place, but despite the magnetism of the name, the boom was not successful, and it is very doubtful if the place ever grows in population, as the land surrounding it is of a very poor quality.

Some of the old inhabitants of this vicinity tell how, in 1844, when Lincoln was an elector at large on the ticket with Henry Clay, he visited the home of his boyhood, squared his back up against the old stone schoolhouse and talked to his old friends and neighbors.



## NANCY HANKS' GRAVE

NOW TENDED BY ASSOCIATION.

Governor of Indiana President of Society That Cares for Resting Place of Mother of Abraham Lincoln  
—Park Is Laid Out.

Special to The Chicago Record.

Lincoln City, Ind., June 19.—The grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother of Abraham Lincoln, after years of neglect, is about to be cared for. Last week the county surveyor finished running the lines inside of which is a wooded plot of sixteen and a half acres. The half acre is the original plot in which Mrs. Lincoln was buried. The sixteen acres have just been purchased by the county commissioners of Spencer county and will be donated to the Nancy Hanks Memorial association, which has just been incorporated according to the laws of the state of Indiana. Gov. Mount is the president of the association, by the by-laws of which the chief executive of the state becomes the ex-officio president of the organization. The secretary is United States Marshal S. E. Kircheval and the treasurer Horace Camp. All of the officers reside in Indianapolis.

The adjoining land was purchased of Robert Ferguson and includes a 100-foot driveway from the public highway to the grave, which is located in a grove of sturdy oaks overlooking the hills and vales of Spencer county and the little town of Lincoln City.

James Culver, the contractor, who is rebuilding the monument of the war president at Springfield, Ill., has agreed to build free of charge a suitable tomb for the mother, and the association has determined to make this occasion a beginning to honor the name of the woman who gave to the nation the emancipator. The sacred spot is to be guarded with jealous care and the bones of this revered character in American history are to be forever kept in Indiana. The entire surroundings are to be adorned and inclosed by the use of money now promised in abundance.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln died eighty-two years ago, but up to the year 1879 naught save an oak tree marked her resting place. The plot lay open to grazing cattle and sheep. In that year one of the Studebaker brothers from his private means erected a plain white marble slab on which was engraved: "Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of President Lincoln; died Oct. 5, 1818, aged 35 years. Erected by a friend of her martyred son, 1879."

It required the presence of all of the living residents who had attended the funeral (there were two or three of them) to locate the exact resting-place of the remains, for the original mound had been leveled until dead leaves and acorns hid all signs of the grave from view. It was finally located by stepping a known distance from the old oak tree, which had died and has now been cut down, the stump alone remaining. The iron fence was put up by Gen. James C. Veatch and others at the time the slab was erected. The inclosure is about ten feet square.

## County Owns Plot.

The title of the property on which the grave is located is in the county commissioners of Spencer county and has been for something more than a decade. The land was attached to a tract purchased some years ago by a Cincinnati syndicate. Henry Lewis, trustee for John Shillito; Robert Mitchell, C. W. West and himself donated it to the commissioners. Subsequently the surrounding land was sold to Robert Ferguson, the deed specifically describing the land as all of a certain tract, "except the half-acre surrounding the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln." This is in near proximity to the exact spot where Thomas Lincoln built his log cabin in 1816, two years after his wife died, and here she was laid away, her's being the only grave for more than a half-century afterward.

The isolation of the places could scarcely be more complete. Even the rusty rails of the railroad which runs up here from

Evansville must be looked for among the weeds and brush of a straggling right of way. The town of Lincoln City was started about fourteen years ago. It now consists of two score or more of houses, three saloons, a depot, water tank and mill, all built on the verge of a little artificial lake. Gentryville was the original town near which the grave was located.

An interesting question now arises as to what disposition, if any, will be made of the twenty-five bodies which have been buried in the same half-acre, for the resting place of the mother of the war president has become a sort of free burying ground. Since the town began to grow people, seemingly without let or hindrance, began burying their dead under the boughs which for fifty years had cast their shadow on the lonely grave, the silent tomb of the "sweet-tempered, beautiful woman," who had mar-

ried her cousin, Thomas Lincoln, and moved to the wild, unbroken region in which she gave up her life, yet in its very flower.

A singular coincidence is that the grave of Nancy Hanks, who as a child, met her first misfortune in the loss of both parents, is almost surrounded by the graves of children, all of whom came to their deaths by violent means. At the foot of the grave are two little mounds, under which are the Main children. Beatrice was shot through the brain by a careless brother and Elmer was kicked to death by a vicious playmate. To one side reposes little Johnny Franklin Myers, who was thrown from a horse and instantly killed. Almost at the headstone of the Lincoln grave is the resting place of a mere infant, the child of an unfortunate unmarried woman.

## Log Cabins Abound.

The scenery about the place is of the primitive character of pioneer ages. There are log cabins of many years' standing. Entrance to the burial grove is through a roughly improvised panel of rail fence.

Abraham Lincoln himself is said to have been the only member of the Lincoln family who ever came back to stand at the graveside of the pioneer wife and mother. During one or two of his rides about the country he is said to have been seen making his way through the grove, where he spent some time alone.

None of the other members of the Lincoln family are buried in the same plot, though Sarah, the sister of Abraham Lincoln, lies in a country cemetery a half mile distant.

"Uncle Joe" Gentry, who, until two years ago was the oracle from whom everything about the Lincolns and their early life here was learned, is dead. He lived to be nearly 100 years old. Other pioneers have taken on his shoes, among them being Mr. Bunton of Gentryville, and Capt. John W. Lamar, who still resides in this locality. There is scarcely a house in Cannelton, Rockport, Lincoln City and Gentryville in which there is not an article, so claimed, that belonged to Lincoln or he helped to make. These articles range all the way from a writing desk to a pepper-box pistol. All the log cabins within twenty miles have a stick or two hewn by the famous rail splitter. Jeff Rhodes owns the cedar tree which is said to have been planted by the family of Thomas Lincoln, and the baptist church, the logs of which are said to be part of the handiwork of Lincoln, is the property of Wayne Hevron and is now doing duty as a barn. Rhodes has had all he could do to prevent people from digging up the old tree by the roots and carrying it away. The original footstone of Nancy Hanks' grave has been carried away in pieces and an old walnut stump on the burial plot has been split into canes and baseball bats. Isolated as the town is the plain white marble slab is annually visited by a large number of people. During the World's Fair trainloads of people went out of their way to visit the place.

## A Mysterious Donor.

There is considerable curiosity about a donation of \$1,000, which is said to have been sent to the Memorial association on the condition that the donor's name be withheld. Everybody down here believes that the money was sent by Robert T. Lincoln, but there is no way of verifying the rumor.

"Old Glory" has been waving over Nancy Hanks' grave for the last five or six years. The old soldiers of this section have been holding reunions in the grove and have supplied Robert Ferguson with small flags,

one of which he keeps sticking in the mound inside the iron fence. When the relic hunters go off with a flag he replaces it with another and thus the stars and stripes are made to float over the grave of a mother who gave the nation one of its most illustrious sons.



## GRAVE OF LINCOLN'S MOTHER



1815

### Fitted for Great Position.

There could have been no better or more ideally fit man for the great task which Lincoln was set to perform. He was the gentlest, kindest man that ever had such a burden laid on him. So the nation does well to keep him in remembrance, for he is its noblest product.

1815

### Lincoln's Favorite Authors.

Lincoln "read Shakespeare more than all other writers together," and he went occasionally to the theater. His favorite plays were "Hamlet," "Macbeth," and the histories, especially "Richard II." He often quoted from the last the amaranthine passage beginning:

Let us sit upon the ground,  
And tell sad stories of the death of kings,  
For relaxation he turned to Thomas

Hood and to Artemus Ward, Nasby and other professional jokers of the time. But most of his evenings he spent in his office, unless there was a dinner party.—From the Diary of John Hay, edited by William Roscoe Thayer, for Harper's Magazine. 1815

### Looked Ahead as Statesman.

While I desired the result of the late canvass to have been different, I still regard it as an exceeding small matter. I think we have fairly entered upon a durable struggle as to whether this nation is to ultimately become all slave or all free, and though I fall early in the contest, it is nothing if I shall have contributed in the least degree, to the final rightful result.—Letter to H. D. Sharpe, December 8, 1858. 1815

## Grave of Lincoln's Mother Is Neglected

Chalybeate Springs, Ky.—Few people know that the grave of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, is unmarked. According to Col. Berry Long of this place, an aged relative of Mrs. Lincoln, the grave is located in an obscure country churchyard in LaRue county, Kentucky, and is unmarked save for a sandstone rock. Colonel Long was present at the burial of President Lincoln's mother and again visited the spot in 1900. The grave has been sought by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and other civic organizations for years.

1820

## Grave of Lincoln's Mother.

Special Dispatch to the Globe-Democrat. 1851  
BUSHNELL, ILL., March 7.—H. L. Kratzer, of this city, has just returned from a trip East, and on his return stopped to visit the grave of Abraham Lincoln's mother. He says while waiting for a train at Lincoln, Spencer County, Ind., for about three hours, he took a stroll through the streets of the village, which has a population of about 200 souls.

"I walked southeast, and found a small meadow, which I crossed, and entered a dense forest. Here I came to a steep hill, a perfect mound, and on the summit was a grave with a plain marble slab about 4 feet high, resting on a large stone base. The inscription on this slab reads:

.....  
Nancy Hanks Lincoln,  
Mother of President Lincoln,  
Died October 5, A. D. 1818, Aged 35 Years. . .  
Erected by a Friend of Her Martyred Son.  
.....

"I found, upon investigation, this stone was erected by Mr. Clem Studebaker, of South Bend, Ind., and that the hearse that brought this mother to her last resting-place was a two-wheeled cart, drawn by a yoke of oxen."



## TO HONOR LINCOLN'S MOTHER.

### Meeting at Indianapolis to Consider Plans for Monument.

Leading representatives of the Loyal Legion, Grand Army of the Republic, Women's Relief Corps and other organizations met in the executive chamber of the State House at Indianapolis for the purpose of considering plans for the erection of a monument over the grave of

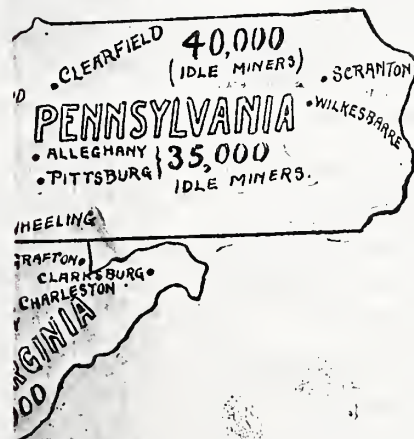


GRAVE OF LINCOLN'S MOTHER.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham Lincoln, who is buried in Spencer County, Indiana, and also to provide a fund for keeping the proposed memorial and lot in repair. A national appeal for public subscriptions will be made by an executive committee appointed for that purpose.

The grave has been neglected for many years, and while a nation has been paying homage to the great emancipator, the grave of his mother has been forgotten. John Burt, a citizen of Spencer County, wrote to the President, calling his attention to the neglected condition of Mrs. Lincoln's tomb, and the President at once communicated with Gov. Mount, suggesting that it would be most fitting if the State of Indiana would take some action concerning the matter. The grave is on an eighty-acre farm adjoining the south

### NUMBER OF MEN NOW IDLE.



end of the old Lincoln farm. Half a mile south of the burial place of the mother is the grave of the only daughter of Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Sallie Ann Grigsby. Mr. Burt finds that years ago the one-half acre of land about the grave of Nancy Hanks was deeded to the United States to be held in trust. No steps have been taken in all these years to make the grave of Lincoln's mother distinguished from the countryside that surrounds it.

J WRIGHT

Nancy Hanks Grave



View of Mrs. Lincoln's Grave Before New Monument Was Set Up.

## The Grave of Lincoln's Mother.

[The following poem was published in this paper before the first monument was erected at Mrs. Lincoln's grave. The poem is anonymous, but its author is supposed to have been John Wyttenbach, who was editor of The Journal at the time it was written.] *The Rockford Journal Oct. 3, 1902*

A wooded hill—a low sunk grave,  
Upon the hill-top hoary;  
The oak tree's branches o'er it wave;  
Devoid of slab—no record save  
Tradition's story!

And who the humble dead, that here  
So lonely sleeps?  
And who, as year rolls after year,  
In Summer green or Autumn sere—  
Comes here and weeps?

So lone and drear—the forest wild  
Unbroken seems—  
We well might think some forest child,  
Grown tired of hunt or war-trail wild,  
Here lies and dreams!

But no; no Red man of the West  
Inhabits here;  
These clods, so oft by the wild beasts pressed  
Now lie upon the moldered breast  
Of one more dear.

For Lincoln's mother here is laid—  
Far from her son.  
No long procession, false parade,  
Of pride or place was here displayed—  
No requiem sung.

No Summer friends were crowded round  
Her humble grave—  
The Summer breezes bore no sound,  
Save genuine grief, when this lone mound  
Its echoes gave.

Her husband, and her children dear,  
And neighbors rude—  
Dressed in their hardy homespun gear—  
Were all that gathered round her bier,  
In this lone wood.

High pile the marble above the breast  
Of chieftian slain;  
While, in the wildwood of the West,  
In tomb by naught but nature drest,  
His mother's lain!

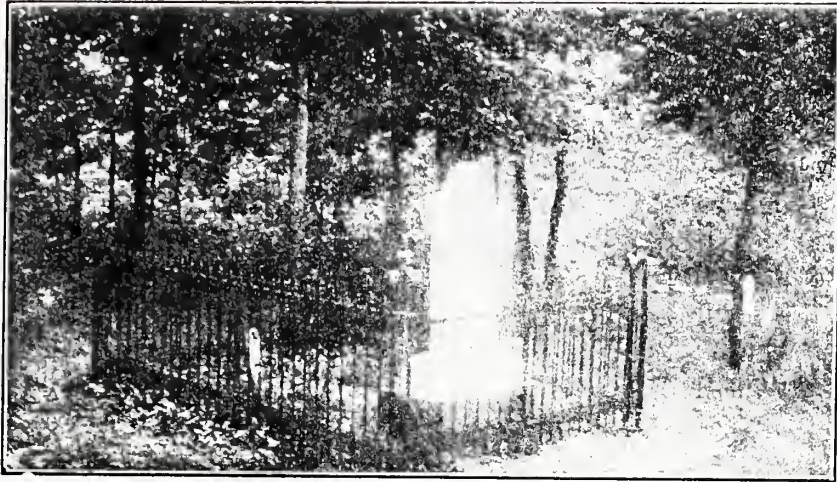
Her grave, from Art or homage free,  
Neglected lies;  
And pride, and pomp, and vanity,  
From this lone grave must ever flee,  
As mockeries.

A nation's grief and gratitude  
Bedewed his bier;  
For her who sleeps in solitude,  
In this lone grave in Western wood,  
Have ye no tear?

And shall the mother of the brave,  
And true, and good,  
Lie thus neglected in a grave  
Unfit for menial, clown or knave,  
In this drear wood?

Oh! nation of the generous brave,  
Be this your shame;  
And let this grave beneath the tree,  
No longer thus neglected be  
Without a name.

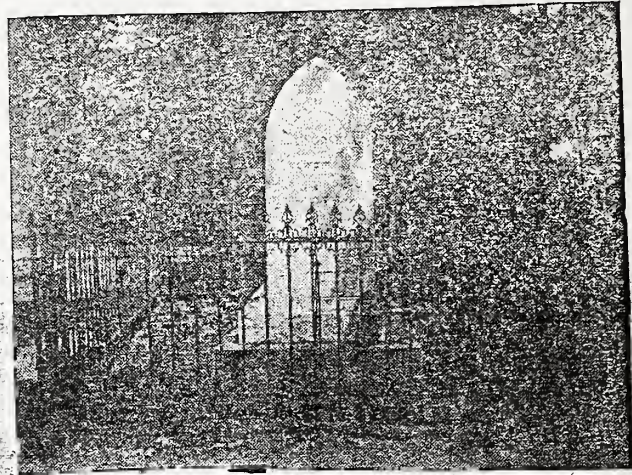
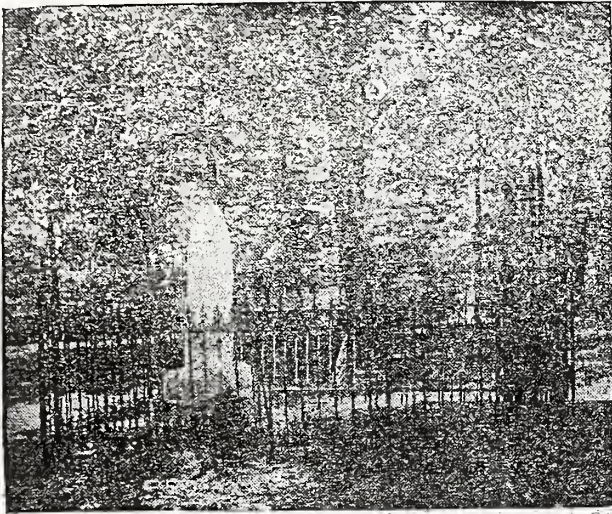




1910



# GRAVE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S MOTHER.



—Photos by Homer Harris, Gentryville, Gentry Co., Ind.

These are photos of the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of President Abraham Lincoln. All that is mortal of the mother of the martyred President lies buried in Lincoln City, Spencer County, Ind. The grave is inclosed in an iron picket fence, and is kept green by residents of the town. Although but 9 years of age when his mother died in 1818, Lincoln had received the lasting impress of her power for good in his deepest life. Three favorite maxims she had instilled into his mind—never to swear, never to touch liquor and never to lie. He said when President: "All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my sainted mother."

Nancy Hanks Lincoln was a Virginian by birth and a woman of fine physical organization and great force of character. She was possessed of shrewd, practical common sense, combined with deep religious feeling and great gentleness of manner. She taught Abraham Lincoln how to read and write and inculcated in him those strong characteristics which made of him a man among men in the stirring times of the Civil War.

# Hoosiers Put Wreath on Grave in Honor of Lincoln's Mother

BOONVILLE, Ind., February 12 (Spl.)—Amid scenes in southwestern Indiana in which the first great tragedy entered the life of Abraham Lincoln—the death of his mother when he was nine years old—the Boonville Press Club, and others faithful to the memory of the civil war President, gathered near Lincoln City today to place a wreath on the grave of the mother in a park enshrined by her influence on her son.

The wreath was placed at the foot of the simple stone marking the last resting place of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, not many steps from the cabin where played the boy who was to become one of the nation's greatest.

Not long ago the state took over the plot wherein is buried Mrs. Lincoln and the bodies of a few others of the community. Back of the burial grove for the few is a small clearing containing the grave of Mrs. Lincoln.

The simple stone erected "by a friend" in 1870 bears the inscription "Naney Hanks Lincoln, Mother of President Lincoln, died October 5, A. D. 1818, aged thirty-five years."

Lincoln's sister Sarah is buried not far from the place where rests the body of his mother. Near Lincoln City stands the Little Pigeon Baptist church where Thomas Lincoln, Abe's father, worshiped. In the church graveyard the sister is buried. She died at twenty-one bearing her first child. Her husband, Aaron Grigby, is buried at her side.

At Rockport, which in Lincoln's time was known as Thompson's Ferry, is another Lincoln village. And in the northeast corner of the Boonville public square, the Warrick County Historical Society has erected a large monument, bearing this legend:

"Abraham Lincoln, while living with his father on a farm about seventeen miles from here, came often to Boonville to hear court trials and to borrow books from John Breckenridge. From this corner, Abraham Lincoln traveled north by ox team on the old Boonville-Petersburg-Vincennes road when emigrating to Illinois in 1830."

In the Courthouse at Rockport is a red cherry cupboard made by Thomas Lincoln and in the Temple of Fine Arts, Evansville, there is a

Continued on Page 11, Part 1

similar cupboard and a bookcase done by Abraham himself.

At the annual meeting of the Boonville Press Club, prior to the pilgrimage to the grave, officers were elected as follows: Ernest W. Owen, president, for fifth term; Dr. F. W. Traylor, vice-president; Mrs. Pervis E. Taylor, treasurer; Bess Gross, secretary; directors, William Fortune, Indianapolis; John Barker, Charles R. Marshall, Harry Whitehead, William L. Roth, Roscoe Kiper, Louis L. Roth and Roy R. Rucker; honorary members elected, Paul V. McNutt, Governor M. Clifford Townsend, Raymond S. Springer, Connersville, and James Kiper, Chicago.

## Thousands Gather at Tomb.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., February 12 (A.P.)—Solemn thousands gathered today at the tomb of Abraham Lincoln in moving tribute to the man who epitomized democracy.

While elsewhere in the nation others paused to commemorate the birth of the great emancipator, 123 years ago, a privileged assemblage stood bare-headed beneath the portals of his final resting place and heard extolled his work and ideals.

American Legionnaires, headed by their national commander, Harry W. Colmery, Topeka, Kas., were in charge of the ceremonies.

Colmery's address was prefaced by the remarks of Governor Henry Horner. Floral tributes were laid upon the sarcophagus. A squad of Spanish war veterans fired a salute to the soldier dead and taps were sounded.

Various groups made excursions to Lincoln shrines in and about Springfield, including the frame house in which the civil war President lived and New Salem state park, site of the restored village where he began his career as a frontier lawyer.

The program marked for Springfield the centennial of the year Lincoln moved here. Also, it was in 1837 that Lincoln was instrumental in having Springfield designated as the state capital.

In the hall where Lincoln pleaded for an undivided nation, the Abraham Lincoln Association, which is devoted to historical research, met to hear Dr. Harold C. Jaquith, of Illinois College, Jacksonville, renew the emancipator's qualities.

## President Goes to Memorial.

WASHINGTON, February 12 (A.P.)—President Roosevelt motored to the Lincoln Memorial, a half mile from the White House today to participate in memorial exercises at the foot of the huge statue of the Great Emancipator.

The President stood on the sidewalk on the arm of his son James while two of his aids marched up the memorial's fifty steps through a lane of soldiers and marines and placed a wreath of palm leaves at the statue's base. Several hundred persons were present.

*Indianapolis News*  
2/12/37



*The Evening Star* 2/12/37  
*Washington*

**Wreath Placed at Foot of Marker During Simple Rites.**

LINCOLN CITY, Ind., February 12 (AP).—Behind the scenes of the Nation's observance of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, a little group of faithful gathered today, quietly and simply, amid the black oaks on a Southern Indiana hill to honor the memory of his mother.

To the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, just across a valley from the cabin in which the Civil War President lived as a boy, the Booneville Press Club, an association of Southern Indiana writers, made its annual pilgrimage to place a wreath at the foot of the simple stone marker and conduct a memorial ceremony.

Her death was the first great tragedy in Lincoln's life. He was only 9 years old at the time.

A few years ago the State took over the old burial ground and made of it the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial.

From the highway entering the memorial park a sloping hillside leads to a grove wherein rest the bodies of some of those who lived in this little community with the Lincolns.

Back of this grove in a small clearing is the Lincoln grave, with a simple stone bearing the inscription, "Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of President Lincoln, died October 5, A.D. 1818, aged 35 years."

A friend erected the marker in 1870 after Lincoln's death.

Many of those who visited the grave today have delved deeply into the Lincoln history. They say "Abe," as he was known, tramped on his 10th birthday anniversary, with his sister Sarah, from their humble cabin home to their mother's grave and offered a simple prayer.

And when the family left Indiana in March, 1830, one of Lincoln's last acts was to visit his mother's grave.

Lincoln did not return to Indiana until 1844, when he visited Rockport to speak in behalf of Henry Clay's candidacy for the presidency. At that time he again visited the grave.



## MOTHER'S GRAVE HONORED NEAR LINCOLN CITY

### Boonville, Ind., Press Club Leads in Rites.

Boonville, Ind., Feb. 12.—[Special.]—Amid scenes in southwestern Indiana in which the first great tragedy entered the life of Abraham Lincoln—the death of his mother when he was nine years old—the Boonville Press club and others gathered near Lincoln City today to place a wreath on the grave of his mother in a park.

#### Near His Early Home.

The wreath was placed at the foot of the simple stone marking the last resting place of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, not many steps from the cabin where played the boy who was to become one of the nation's greatest.

Not long ago, the state took over the plot where Mrs. Lincoln and the bodies of a few others are buried. Back of that burial grove is a small clearing containing the grave of Mrs. Lincoln.

The simple stone erected "by a friend" in 1870, bears the inscription "Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of President Lincoln, died October 5, A. D. 1818, aged thirty-five years."

#### Sister's Grave Is Near.

Lincoln's sister Sarah is buried not far from the grave of his mother. Near Lincoln City stands the Little Pigeon Baptist church, where Thomas Lincoln, Abe's father, worshiped. In the church graveyard the sister is buried. She died at 21 bearing her first child. Her husband, Aaron Grigby, is buried at her side.

At Rockport, which in Lincoln's time was known as Thompson's Ferry, is another Lincoln village. And in the northeast corner of the Boonville public square the Warrick County Historical society has erected a large monument bearing this legend: "Abraham Lincoln, while living with his father on a farm about seventeen miles from here, came often to Boonville to hear court trials and borrow books from John Breckenridge. From this corner Abraham Lincoln traveled north by ox team on the old Boonville-Vincennes road when emigrating to Illinois in 1830."

In the courthouse at Rockport is a red cherry cupboard made by Thomas Lincoln, and in the Temple of Fine Arts, Evansville, there is a similar cupboard and a bookcase made by Abraham himself.

**GRAVE OF NANCY HANKS  
"NOBLEST LINCOLN MONUMENT"**

This Characterization Made by  
Speaker at Burial Place of  
Emancipator's Mother.

By the Associated Press.

LINCOLN CITY, Ind., Feb. 13.—

A small group met at the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham Lincoln, here yesterday and paid tribute to her memory.

"Here is the noblest monument of all to Abraham Lincoln," said the Rev. R. Stanley Hendricks of Huntingburg, referring to the grave.

The grave is just across a valley from a hill, where stood the log cabin in which Lincoln once lived and in which his mother died Oct. 5, 1818.

*St. Louis Dispatch*

*2/13/37*

#### HONOR LINCOLN'S MOTHER.

Lincoln City, Ind., Feb. 12. (AP) —The hilltop grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, marked by a simple stone, was described today as the "noblest monument of all" to her son, Abraham Lincoln.

In exercises lent dignity by simplicity, a southern Indiana group, some descendants of neighbors of the Lincoln family in this community, paid honor to her memory as the nation observed the birthday anniversary of her great son.

"Here is the noblest monument of all to Abraham Lincoln," spoke the Rev. R. Stanley Hendricks of Huntingburg to those gathered at the grave into which Lincoln, at the age of 9, saw his mother lowered. He helped his father make the rough box, which served as her coffin.

"It is fitting that, on his birthday we should exalt the brave and gentle mother who started him along the path to greatness."

The grave is just across a valley from a lesser hill, where stood the rude log cabin in which Lincoln lived as a boy and in which his mother died Oct. 5, 1818.



## Hoosiers Mark Lincoln's Birthday With Simple Tribute to Mother

Lincoln City, Ind., Feb. 12.—(AP)—Reverent Hoosiers marked Abraham Lincoln's birthday today with a tribute to his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln—the frail, devout pioneer woman the martyr President credited with setting him on the road to fame.

In a simple memorial service—a yearly custom of the Indiana Lincoln Union and Boonville Press Club—they laid wreaths on the lonely hilltop grave in which she lies near this southern Indiana village.

### Only Shaft Marks Site.

Only a white stone shaft marks the place. But the state, by way of restoring the frontier landscape she knew in life, has established a 1,200-acre woodland park nearby.

In prayer, poetry, songs and

speeches, the ceremony told the story of the 14 years of growth Lincoln spent in Indiana—between the ages of 7 and 21.

Floyd I. McMurray, state superintendent of public instruction, eulogized Lincoln's mother as a prime influence for good in his life. He said she read to him, told him Bible stories and probably taught him to read.

"That her influence was paramount and that she guided him to the best things in life," he said, "is

established by his significant statement, 'All that I am and all that I hope to me, I owe to my angel mother.'"

### His First Tragic Loss.

Her death of a frontier plague in October, 1818, when Lincoln was 9, McMurray pictured as the first tragic loss in a life shot through with bitter experiences.

"The deeper shadows of reality touched him," he said, "so that they were never entirely lifted from his life."

He expressed hope no monument ever would be raised to take away the "pioneer simplicity" of the shrine.

Indianapolis STAR

2/12/38

## Tribute Is Paid Mother Of Lincoln in Hoosier Rites

Wreaths laid on lonely hilltop grave of Nancy  
Hanks Lincoln

Lincoln City, Ind., Feb. 12 (AP)—Reverent Hoosiers marked Abraham Lincoln's birthday today with a tribute to his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln—the frail, devout pioneer woman the Martyr President credited with setting him on the road to fame.

In a simple memorial service—a yearly custom of the Indiana Lincoln Union and Boonville Press Club—they laid wreaths on the lonely hilltop grave in which she lies near this Southern Indiana village.

Only a white stone shaft marks the place. But the state, by way of restoring the frontier landscape she knew in life, has established a 1,200-acre woodland park nearby.

In prayer, poetry, songs and speeches, the ceremony told the story of the fourteen years of growth Lincoln spent in Indiana—between the ages of seven and 21.

Floyd I. McMurray, state superintendent of public instruction, eulogized Lincoln's mother as a prime influence for good in his life. He said she read to him, told him Bible stories and probably taught him to read.

"That her influence was paramount and that she guided him to the best things in life," he said, "is established by his significant statement, 'All that I am and all that I hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.'"

Her death of a frontier plague in October, 1818, when Lincoln was nine, McMurray pictured as the first tragic loss in a life shot through with bitter experiences.

"The deeper shadows of reality touched him," he said, "so that they were never entirely lifted from his life."

He expressed hope no monument ever would be raised to take away the "pioneer simplicity" of the shrine.

2/12/1938

*Ho. Indianapolis Sun Star 2/11/35*

## Hoosier Descendants of Lincoln's

### Neighbors Gather at Mother's Grave

Lincoln City, Ind., Feb. 12.—(P)—While the nation paid tribute to Abraham Lincoln, descendants of neighbors of the Thomas Lincoln family, pioneer residents of southern Indiana, today offered homage to Nancy Hanks Lincoln, his mother.

Lincoln's mother, who is buried here at the state shrine, died two years after coming to Indiana with her husband and two children from Kentucky.

From villages and towns and the countryside came the faithful to place wreaths on her grave and hear Ivor J. Robinson, superintendent of the Boonville public schools, eulogize her memory.

"We are assembled to worship at the shrine of American motherhood, Robinson said. "Abraham Lincoln on many occasions made public acknowledgement of the debt he owed his mother for her influence and guidance. Here in these same hills he spent the formative period of his life and learned the life of the pioneer."

He urged his hearers to join in a movement to have the Federal government make the grave of Lincoln's mother a national park and erect a memorial "as will properly honor the name of Abraham Lincoln."

#### Press Club Sponsored.

Sponsored by the Boonville Press Club, the observance is held annually. Two years ago it was held in a snowstorm and three years

ago the weather was so cold that bonfires were built to keep the crowd of several hundred persons warm.

"It is fitting that on the Civil War President's birthday anniversary we honor the mother who gave him life," said Ernest W. Owen, president of the club.

Lincoln, a boy of 9 when his mother died, helped his father fashion the crude home-made coffin in which they buried her. For the grave they selected the highest spot in what is now Lincoln City.

#### Gravesite Briar Patch.

For many years the gravesite was only slightly more than a briar patch. Then the state made it and the old Lincoln farm into the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial park.

Marking the grave of Lincoln's mother is a stone bearing this inscription: "Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of President Lincoln, died Oct. 5, A. D. 1818, aged 35 years."



# TRIBUTE PAID TO LINCOLN MEMORY

Continued from Page 1, Part 1

## Lincoln Memory Is Honored in Service at Mother's Grave

Other Lincoln Day news on Pages 3 and 7, Part 1.

LINCOLN CITY, Ind., February 12 (A.P.)—Descendants of neighbors of the Thomas Lincoln family, who lived in a crude cabin here a century and a quarter ago, gathered today on Lincoln City's highest hilltop to honor the memory of the mother whom Abraham Lincoln, as a boy of nine, helped to bury.

Each year on his birthday, while the rest of the nation is honoring his memory, southern Indiana pays tribute at the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who died two years after coming with her husband and two children from Kentucky to make a new home in the wilderness.

"It is fitting," said Ernest W. Owen, president of the Boonville Press Club, which sponsors the observance, "that on the civil war President's birthday we honor the mother who gave him life and the

early training that was to mean so much to him."

And so today from the countryside and neighboring towns came the faithful, to place wreaths on the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, just across a valley from the log cabin in which the civil war President lived as a boy, and hear Irvor J. Roblnson, superintendent of the Boonville public schools, pay tribute to her memory.

Two years ago the observance was held in a snowstorm and three years ago the weather was so cold that huge bonfires were built of logs to keep the crowd of several hundred persons warm.

The boy Lincoln helped his father fashion the crude home-made coffin in which they buried his mother. For the grave they chose the highest spot in what is now Lincoln City. Some years ago the gravesite was

Continued on Page 7, Part 1

hardly more than a briar patch. Then the state took it over and made it and the old Lincoln farm into the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial park. Lincoln's only sister, Sarah, Lincoln Grigsby, who died in 1828, also is buried in the park.

### Stone Marks Grave.

Harking the grave of Lincoln's mother is a stone with this inscription: "Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Mother of President Lincoln. Died Oct. 5, A. D. 1818, Aged 35 Years."

In November, 1819, Thomas Lincoln remarried, bringing Sarah Bush from Kentucky to be a stepmother to Abe and Sarah. Until then Abe's sister, who was only two years older than he, had had to do the cooking and other household tasks.

Historians say that Lincoln's step-mother had much to do with shaping his life, that many times she refused to let Thomas send him to read from his studies on the floor by the light of the fire.

### New Deal Hit in Lincoln Address.

ANDERSON, Ind., February 12 (Spl.)—America would be much better off today if it had a leader as interested in the economic welfare of citizens as was Abraham Lincoln, asserted Ralph Scott, Greenfield, former Republican congressional candidate, in an address last night before a Lincoln day banquet held here under sponsorship of the Madison county Republican central committee.

The "old deal" administrations handed down constructive ideas of government from generation to generation, Scott said. But the present New Deal is paving the way for passing on "destructive ideas and obligations that will saddle your children and my children with debt during their entire lifetime."

Scott attacked the new "windshield gadget" law as a "racket," asserting "a considerable number of people wants to know what happens to the revenue the state collects from sale of the devices."

### Pleads for Fundamental Principles.

GREENFIELD, Ind., February 12 (Spl.)—Howard M. Meyer, Indianapolis attorney, voiced a plea for a return to the fundamental principles of American government as embodied in the Constitution and as upheld by Abraham Lincoln, in a Lincoln day address here last night. The meeting was sponsored by the Hancock County Republican Organization.

"The people of the United States must again become imbued with an appreciation of freedom and a determination to be rid of political, social and economic shackles," Meyer said.

### New Deal Called Failure.

NEWCASTLE, Ind., February 12 (Spl.)—The New Deal has been a failure because President Roosevelt has not attained a single objective or kept a promise.

2/12/38

Ft. Wayne  
New Sentinel 2/12/38

#### TRIBUTE TO MOTHER.

Observance Is Held At Grave Of  
Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

LINCOLN CITY, Ind., Feb. 12.—(A.P.)—Descendants of neighbors of the Thomas Lincoln family, who lived in a crude cabin here a century and a quarter ago, gathered today on Lincoln City's highest hill-top to honor the memory of the mother whom Abraham Lincoln, as a boy of 9, helped to bury.

Each year on his birthday, while the rest of the Nation is honoring his memory, Southern Indiana pays tribute at the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who died in 1818, two years after coming with her husband and two children from Kentucky to make a new home in the wilderness.

"It is fitting," said Ernest W. Owen, president of the Boonville Press Club, which sponsors the observance, "that on the Civil War President's birthday we honor the mother who gave him life and the early training that was to mean so much to him."

And so today from the countryside and neighboring towns came the faithful, to place wreaths on the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, just across a valley from the log cabin in which the Civil War President lived as a boy, and to hear Ivor J. Robinson, superintendent of the Boonville public schools, pay tribute to her memory.

Two years ago the observance was held in a snow storm and three years ago the weather was so cold that huge bonfires were built of logs to keep the crowd of several hundred persons warm.

#### Built Mother's Coffin.

The boy Lincoln helped his father fashion the crude home-made coffin in which they buried his mother. For the grave they chose the highest spot in what is now Lincoln City.

Some years ago the graveside was hardly more than a briar patch. Then the state took it over and made it and the old Lincoln farm into the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Park. Lincoln's only sister, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, who died in 1828, also is buried in the park.

Marking the grave of Lincoln's mother is a stone with this inscription: "Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of President Lincoln, died October 5, A. D., 1818, aged 35 years."

In November, 1819, Thomas Lincoln remarried, bringing Sarah Bush from Kentucky to be a stepmother to "Abe" and Sarah. Until then "Abe's" sister, who was only two years older than he, had had to do the cooking and other household tasks.

Historians say that Lincoln's stepmother had much to do with shaping his life, that many times she refused to let Thomas send him to bed from his studies on the floor by the light of the fire.



Jasper - 15

THE JASPER HERALD, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1939  
Services Sunday for Lincoln's Mother



LINCOLN CITY. — The Boonville Press Club will join with the Indiana Lincoln Union in simple services next Sunday, Feb. 12, at the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the immortal mother of Abraham Lincoln, who is buried in the state park here bearing her name. The program is to honor the son, and the two organizations annually pay tribute to both mother and son. The program will be held at 1:30 P. M. Wreaths will be placed on the grave by both organizations.

Floyd I. McMurray, Superintendent of Public Instruction will represent Governor M. Clifford Townsend at the service and will deliver the eulogy. Mrs. Blanche Hammond Camp, poet laureate of the Boonville Press Club, will read a new poem which she has written for the occasion entitled "Abraham Lincoln." The invocation will be given by Rev. R. Stanley Hendricks of the M. E. Church of Huntingburg. Short talks will be made by Col. Richard Lieber, of the Indiana Lincoln Union, and Ernest W. Owen, president of the Boonville Press Club.

The committee for the Indiana Lincoln Union is composed of Col. Richard Lieber, Thomas Taggart, Mrs. Sanford Trippett, William B. Carleton and Dr. William Lowe Bryan. The committee for the Boonville Press Club

is composed of Mrs. Bess Gross, Mrs. Josephine Owens Taylor, Charles H. Johnson, Ernest W. Owen and John D. Barker.

School children from the Spencer and Warrick Counties will sing patriotic songs under the following: Gentryville, A. H. Maxim in charge, Dale—E. H. Loehr in charge, Rockport—T. V. Pruitt, in charge, Lincoln City—Miss Mabel Schaaf in charge, Boonville—Ivor J. Robinson in charge, Tennyson, Norman Phillips in charge and the Spencer County schools with Garl J. Engelbrecht in charge.

The first ceremony in honor of Nancy Hanks Lincoln was arranged by her son, Abe, then a boy of nine years following her death, several months after she had passed away in October 1818. It was in the spring time, and an old preacher came from Kentucky to hold the service to which all the country-side came to do honor to this pioneer mother. Today this mother is known and honored everywhere for giving birth to Abraham Lincoln, and the Boonville Press Club and the Indiana Lincoln Union have issued a joint invitation to everyone to be present on Sunday, Feb. 12 at the grave of Nancy Hanks to pay honor to Indiana's best known pioneer mother, and her immortal son.

2/10/1939



## *To Honor Lincoln's Mother Today with Ceremony at Grave*

LINCOLN CITY, Ind., July 8.—  
(P)—Public officials and townsfolk will gather tomorrow at the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham Lincoln, to pay impressive tribute on the 121st anniversary of her death.

The ceremonies will mark the sixteenth annual pilgrimage to the hillside grave by members of the Boonville Press club.

Principal speaker will be Juvenile Judge Wilfred Bradshaw of Indianapolis, a Warrick county native, who will recount the story of the "Immortal Mother of Abe Lincoln."

Richard T. James of Portland, deputy secretary of state, will discuss "Indiana's Claim to Abraham Lincoln," and William B. Carleton, editor of the Boonville Enquirer, will deliver a graveside eulogy.

Representatives of the Indiana Lincoln Union, the World war mothers and the Press club will place wreaths on the grave, as a bugler sounds "taps."

A. J. Heuring of Winslow will speak to a Sunday school class tomorrow morning. Officials predicted 1,000 persons would attend and participate in the march to the grave.

July 8, 1939

## PROGRAM AT MOTHER'S GRAVE TO MARK LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

<sup>1941</sup>  
Nancy Hanks Lincoln Buried in Indiana, Civil War President's Home as Youth.

LINCOLN CITY, Ind., Feb. 10 (AP).—A pilgrimage to the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln on a wooded hilltop near here by the Boonville Press Club Wednesday will mark the birthday of her son, Abraham Lincoln. The pioneer mother died of a frontier plague in 1818, when Abraham was 9 years old, and was buried in a whip-sawed coffin without a funeral. Young Lincoln lived in Indiana from his ninth to his twenty-first year.

The club's service will start at 2 p. m. Participants will include Col. Richard Lieber, chairman of the executive committee of the Indiana Lincoln Union; Frank N. Wallace, acting State Conservation Commissioner, and Charles A. De Turk, State Park Director, all of Indianapolis.

In the years her son was an Illinois grocery clerk and lawyer and then President, Nancy Hanks Lincoln's grave lay undecorated. Finally, in 1879, the late P. E. Studebaker, South Bend wagon manufacturer, put a plain stone at her head. Now a State park of 1726 acres is nearby and close to the grave a limestone memorial, two assembly halls and a cloistered walk around a courtyard, is rising. It is to be finished by Nov. 18.

2/10/1941

# Exercises Review States 15-Year Drive for Memorial to Lincoln



Services honoring Nancy Hanks Lincoln were held at the grave near Lincoln City yesterday by the Boonville Press Club and the Indiana Lincoln Union. Col. Richard Lieber, who represented the union in the ceremonies, is shown standing beside the grave.

Lincoln City, Ind., Feb. 12.—  
(Special)—Fifteen years of accomplishment in the development of Indiana's tribute to Abraham Lincoln—the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial which encompasses the site of the Lincoln home, the farm and the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln—was reviewed here this afternoon in the annual memorial exercises conducted by the Indiana Lincoln Union and the Boonville Press Club.

In laying a wreath on the grave, Col. Richard Lieber, chairman of the union's executive committee, said:

"Fifteen years of faithful application to the self-imposed task (of developing the memorial) have wrought great change. The acreage alone has expanded from 20 to 1,750 acres. Woods and waters have received attention. The symbol of the Lincoln family's cabin has been placed. As far as possible the little country graveyard was restored, where the majesty of death returns us to the acceptance of the brotherhood of the living. As we approach the grave this year we see the beginning of great activity toward completing our task by the erection of the final memorial structure."

Mrs. Bess Gross, secretary of the Boonville Press Club, placed a wreath for the club and a talk on "Lincoln, the Man" was given by Leonard Ashiey, Boonville attorney. Charles R. Marshall, president of the Boonville Press Club, presided.

Following the exercises inspection was made of the progress on construction of the memorial building.



### **Honor Memory of Lincoln's Mother**

LINCOLN CITY, IND. — (AP) — While the nation observed the 134th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, a faithful little group made annual pilgrimage today to a southern Indiana hill to honor the memory of his mother.

In a simple ceremony, a wreath was placed at the foot of a stone marker on the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, whose death in 1818 was the first great tragedy in the life of the Civil war President. He was nine years old when she died.

*Memorial*

*2/12/40*

# HOOSIERS HONOR LINCOLN MOTHER

## Schricker Heads Delegation To Hanks Grave

LINCOLN CITY, Feb. 12.—(AP)—A delegation representing the Indiana-Lincoln union, and headed by Governor Schricker, made its annual pilgrimage to the southern Indiana hill country today to honor the memory of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, as the rest of the nation paid tribute to her son.

The group placed a wreath at the foot of a stone marker on the grave of the martyred president's mother, whose death in 1818 was the first of many tragedies in Lincoln's life. He was nine at the time.

The grave is just across the valley from the cabin where Lincoln lived and studied as a boy. The burial plot was converted a few years ago by the state into the Nancy Hanks Lincoln memorial. A number of other Indiana pioneers, including Lincoln's sister Sally, are buried there.

"It is appropriate that on Abraham Lincoln's birthday," the governor said, "that we should exalt so great a life and we will do so by paying tribute to the brave and gentle mother who gave him good birth and led him with a kindly hand for a little while along the path to greatness."

Other speakers today were Col. Richard Lieber of Indianapolis and Hugh Barnhart, director of the Indiana Conservation department.

When Nancy Hanks Lincoln

died, her son helped his father build a rough box coffin for her and then, grief-stricken, followed it up the long, sloping hill to the burial place.

A stepmother, Sara Bush Johnston, came into the Lincoln cabin about a year later, and is said to have persuaded Tom Lincoln into allowing his son to study before the fire late at night instead of sending him to bed.

The family left Indiana a few years later, moving to Illinois, and Lincoln did not return to Indiana until 31 years later. At that time, he stopped briefly in Indianapolis while on his way to be inaugurated president, to speak on the eve of his fifty-third birthday.

*F. A. Wayne Da, etc  
2/13/43*

in  
S  
t  
g  
r  
r  
n  
s  
n

# Indiana Pays Quiet Tribute at Grave of Lincoln's Mother

By DON UNDERWOOD  
The News Staff Correspondent  
LINCOLN CITY, Ind., Feb. 12—

The same sloping hills and ancient trees are still there and it was quiet today. Almost as quiet as that day 128 years ago when Abraham Lincoln and his sister, Sarah, followed the heavy, awkward sledge that carried the rough box containing the body of their mother to the grave on the hilltop, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother, still sleeps on that silent hilltop in Spencer county.

Today, as on each February 12, a grateful Indiana honored the memory of the mother of a great American on the anniversary of his birth. It was a simple ceremony here where Indiana has erected a beautiful memorial near the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln; simple, as befits the memory of that gaunt, retiring youth who became America's civil war President.

The annual pilgrimage this year was led by Richard T. James, lieu-

tenant governor, who eulogized Lincoln in a ceremony at the Abraham Lincoln Hall of the memorial. Mr. James traced the life of the man, destined to be one of the nation's greatest Presidents, through his formative years in Indiana. He recounted the legends of the boy Lincoln; how he studied by the light of the fireplace from books lent to him by the old judge, John Pitcher, who lived in Rockport. Or of Lincoln's friendship for Billy Jones, at whose general store the boy worked in Jonesboro. He told, too, how Lincoln trudged miles one day after that store had closed to return a customer's change.

Mr. James recalled that Lincoln left this spot in 1930, after fourteen years in Indiana, to go to Springfield, Ill., where he became a lawyer. He was gone from Indiana another fourteen years and then returned by horseback to "stump" the state for the Whig political party. That political pilgrimage took him to Bruceville, Vincennes, Washington, Boonville and Rockport.

An old copy of the Spencer County Herald, published November 1, 1844, carries this account of Lincoln's speech in the Courthouse at Rockport on October 30:

"Mr. Lincoln, of Springfield, Ill., addressed a large and respectable audience at the Courthouse on

Wednesday evening last upon the Whig policy. His main argument was directed in pointing out the advantages of protective tariff. He handled that subject in a manner that did honor to himself and the Whig cause. Other subjects were investigated in a like manner. His speech was plain, argumentative and of an hour's duration."

Included in today's program was the annual ceremony of laying a wreath on the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, a ceremony carrying on the precedent set by the late Richard Lieber. Milton Matter, director of the department of conservation, placed the wreath as members of the conservation commission looked on.

Robert F. Wirsching, director of state parks for the department, presided at the ceremonies. Musical selections were given by the Dale High School chorus, directed by Miss Mary Lee Gabbert. An original poem, "For Lincoln's Sake," was read by Irvin E. Perigo and another wreath was placed on the grave by Mrs. Bess Cross, secretary of the Boonville Press Club.

Conservation commission members present included Ivar Hennings, chairman; Cornelius O'Brien and Lisle Wallace. En route to the ceremony, the commission and accompanying newspapermen were guests at a luncheon at St. Meinrad Seminary.

After the Lincoln Memorial program, the commission went to Scales lake, near Boonville, to inspect the area for its possibilities as a recreation site.

2/12/46



# **Tribute to Lincoln Paid By Hoosiers**

## **Traditional Ceremony Held At Grave of Mother; James Speaks.**

By the Associated Press.

Indiana paused today to pay tribute to a man who spent most of his boyhood in the hill country in the southern part of the state and then went on to the country's highest office—Abraham Lincoln.

\* \* \*

**Traditional ceremonies at the grave of the martyred President's mother—Nancy Hanks Lincoln—were observed for the first time since before the war.** Lt. Gov. Richard T. James delivered the principal address at Lincoln State Park, 35 miles northeast of Evansville.

The ceremonies were concluded with the laying of a wreath on the grave.

\* \* \*

**The State of Indiana sent a wreath to be laid on the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C., by Representative Springer (R., Ind.).** That ceremony was to be screened by television in the first attempt at a transmission between Washington and New York City.

Gov. Ralph Gates declared the day a legal holiday, and the State Capitol, local governmental offices, banks and some businesses closed their doors.

\* \* \*

**Indiana Republicans observe the day with a series of meetings at which officeholders delivered speeches generally regarded as opening the 1946 political campaign.**

Gates is speaking at Peru, Senator Willis at Hammond and State Republican Chairman William E. Jenner at Indianapolis. Senator Capehart will address the Kiwanis Club at Montpelier and Congressman Charles M. LaFollette, who is seeking a Senate seat, was to talk to Republicans in his home town, Evansville.

\* \* \*

**Speaking at Shelbyville last night, Jenner told a Lincoln Day meeting:** "America must recognize and assume its responsibilities in the world to come with honest and open handling of international problems."

Jenner said victory in the war had placed the country in a position of world influence, forever charged with active concern for both the great and small affairs of the world.

\* \* \*

**He told the veteran-sponsored meeting that the countrystands "in the peril of confusion . . . of indirection and indecision."**

"During the crisis that confronts us," he declared, "it will be well if we marshal the courage and the generosity, the simple dignity and the abiding faith of Abraham Lincoln."

**FEBRUARY 12, 1946.**

*Courtesy of the*

# State Honors Lincoln And His Mother

*Journal* 2-16-41  
(By Associated Press)

Indiana honored the mother of Abraham Lincoln yesterday with simple ceremonies at her Spencer County grave and paid tribute to the President who spent the formative years of his life in a humble Hoosier log cabin.

Lt.-Gov. Richard T. James led the pilgrimage to the last resting place of Nancy Hanks Lincoln in Lincoln State Park and eulogized her son as a man who acquired a thirst for knowledge while a young man working on his father's tiny downstate farm.

But, he added, "let no one tell you that Lincoln went out of Indiana as nothing more than a lean, lanky rawboned backwoodsman. Abraham Lincoln went out of Indiana a full-grown man at the age of 21—a true son of Hoosierdom."

Milton Matter, director of the State Conservation Department, laid a wreath on the grave and a second wreath was placed there by Mrs. Bess Cross, secretary of the Boonville Press Club. The Dale High School Chorus sang several numbers.

In Washington, D. C., Rep. Springer (R-Ind.) laid a wreath, sent by the State of Indiana, on the Lincoln Memorial in birthday anniversary ceremonies screened by television in the initial attempt at transmission between the capital and New York City.

Elsewhere throughout the state Republican orators called for a return of Lincoln's philosophy and wisdom as a guide to steering the nation's domestic and international course.

In a speech at Evansville Rep. Charles M. LaFollette told Eighth District Republicans that he believed that one of the basic reasons for unrest in America "is the increasing hopelessness of the average citizen that in our capitalistic system as it presently exists . . . the humblest man does not have an equal chance to get rich with everybody else."

U. S. Sen. Raymond E. Willis spoke at Hammond and his junior colleague, Homer E. Capehart, at a Montpelier Kiwanis Club meeting.

Spencer, Ind  
Dec 15, '47

Mr Louis A Warren  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Dr Warren:-

I appreciate the pamphlet on the  
Lincolns in Indiana and thank you for it.  
I enclose two dollars for number 149 -  
Story - life of Lincoln by Whipple. If that is  
not available you may substitute.

I don't know how closely you have followed  
the development and building of the Lincoln  
Memorial and Lincoln Park in Spencer Co,  
but it seems to me something has been  
left out.

In the books that the Dept. of Conservation  
has published on the Lincoln Memorial I do  
not find the name of the man mentioned  
who, in my opinion, first conceived the  
dream of such a shrine.



2

I was born at Tell City in 1894. A block from our house there lived an eccentric bachelor, John Meinberg. He was a friend of the family and visited us often. This was during the years 1900 to 1910. When I was 6 years of age he was, I would say in his fifties. We were friends nevertheless. He was an artist, had studied in Europe and was interested in Swiss architecture.

Returning from Europe he worked for a time in an art studio in Cincinnati. Later he returned to Tell City and that is the period of his life I mentioned above.

Somewhere along the line Mr Meinberg got the idea that small towns should have parks and memorials as well as large cities. He began to talk park for Tell City. In general the town fathers laughed at him. "Parks ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> for large cities anyway it ~~was~~ is just another one of Meinberg's dreams. He starts so many things and never finishes them." That's the way people felt about the idea.

3

Getting no support from the grown ups, he turned to the children. I remember working two afternoons with a bunch of kids helping clean up a beautiful wooded hill top just out of town. It was the site he had chosen for "Bell Park."

About this time he began talking of a park at Lincoln City. This idea was hoisted even more than the idea of a park for his home town.

The thought of a park at that "Mud Hole," Lincoln City - the idea was ridiculous.

We walked about town in those days and it was a common sight <sup>see</sup> to Mr Weinberg standing and talking "Park" to someone. He would talk it as long as he found anyone to listen. I heard him talk it in our house.

I heard him say this so often - "That should be a shrine out there. People from all over the United States will want to come and see it."

He named the place, The Nancy Hankes Lincoln Park. The only actual work that he did

# ANAPOLIS NEWS

PART 2

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1948

December 18, 1947

Mr. A. J. Harrer  
Spencer, Indiana

My dear Mr. Harrer:

Thanks very much for the very interesting story you have told about the beginning of the Lincoln Memorial Park at Lincoln City. We are glad to have this information for our files.

Under separate cover we are forwarding the booklet you ordered and hope you will enjoy reading it.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CM  
L.A. Warren

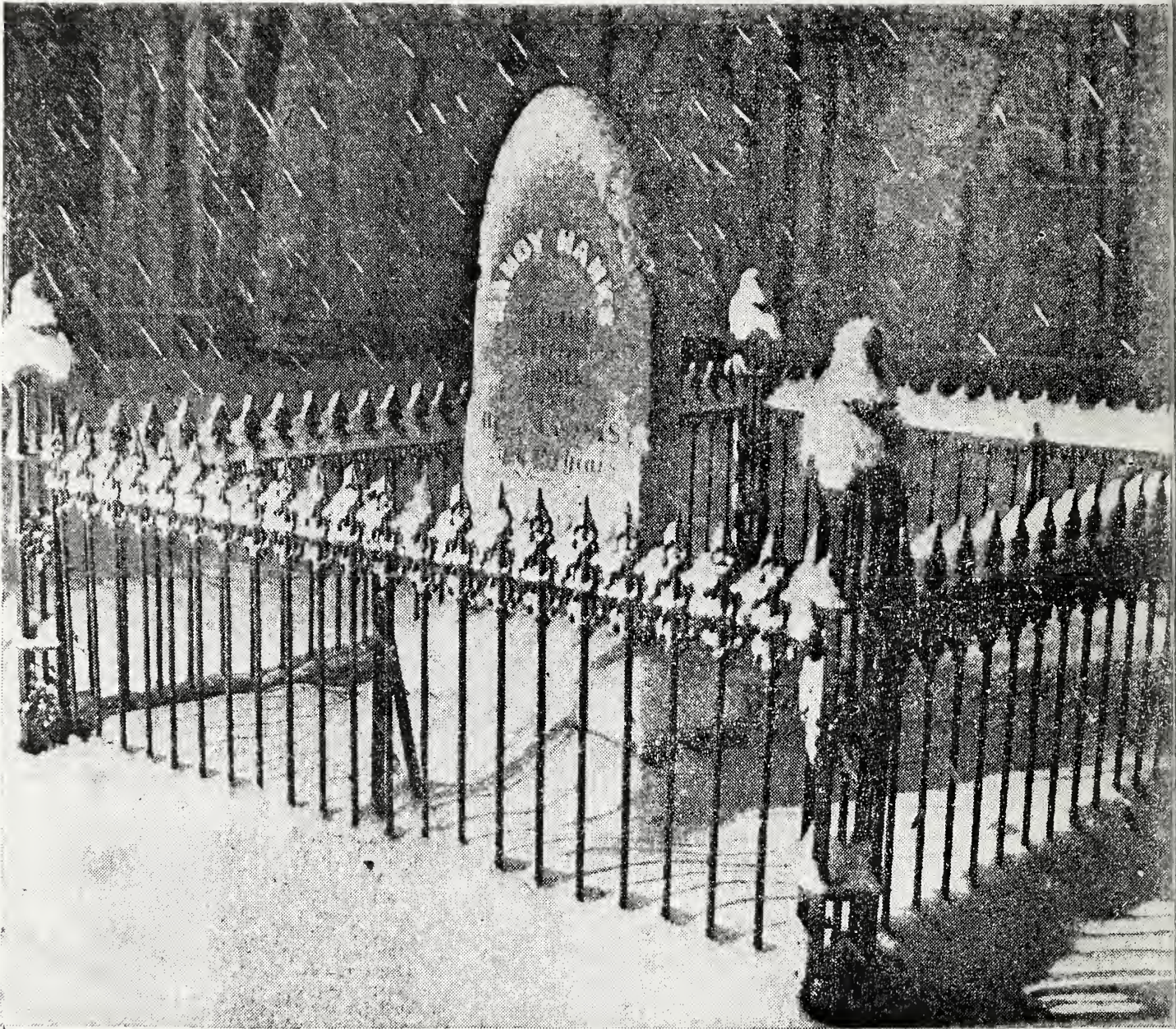
THE WAS SAD WITH SORROWS LIKE... SANDBURG



# ANAPOLIS NEWS

PART  
2

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1948



## **'SHE WAS SAD WITH SORROWS LIKE DARK STARS IN BLUE MIST'—SANDBURG**

A heavy snow falls on the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln at Lincoln State Park in Spencer County. Although the tombstone reads, "Aged 35 years," there is

historical evidence she may have been only 33.—The News Photo, George F. Tilford.





**'SHE WAS SAD WITH SORROWS LIKE DARK STARS IN BLUE MIST'—SANDBURG**

A heavy snow falls on the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln at Lincoln State Park in Spencer County. Although the tombstone reads, "Aged 35 years," there is

historical evidence she may have been only 33.—The News Photo, George F. Tilford.

*Ind News 2-12-4*



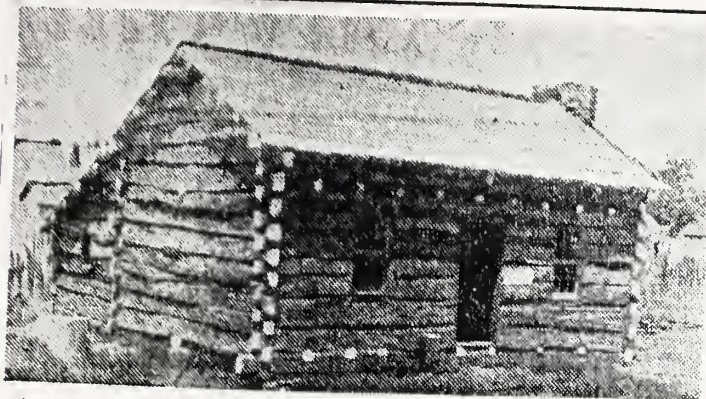
## NANCY HANKS' BURIAL PLOT CLOSED, DUE TO JOY RIDING AUTOISTS

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 1.—(AP)—The burial plot of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, in Spencer county, Ind., has been closed to motor vehicles, it was announced today by the state department of conservation. Richard Liebor, director, declared the cemetery where the body lies had become a picnic ground and a favorite parking spot for joy riders, and that barring of motor cars was necessary to preserve the dignity of the grave and to save the burial plot from ruthless injury.

The Nancy Hanks burial plot and the twenty acre park in which it lies was turned over to the department of conservation by the 1925 Indiana legislature.

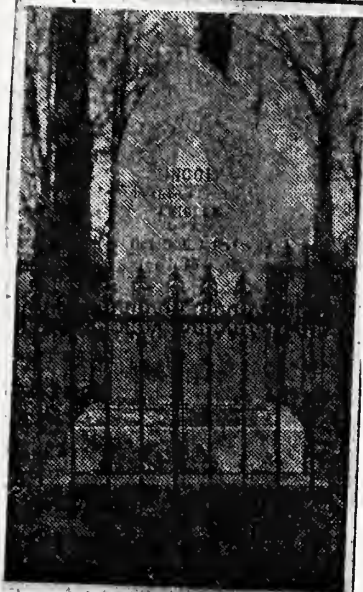


## Lincoln's Indiana Home



Log cabin home of Abraham Lincoln in Spencer county, Indiana, where he spent part of his early years.

## Historic Grave



Tombstone at grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham Lincoln, in Lincoln City, Ind.

panel" [1860-1865] depicts his years in the Presidency and the Civil war. The fifth panel is "The Apotheosis," with the historic words of Edwin M. Stanton, Lincoln's secretary of war, "And now he belongs to the ages."

• • •  
A walk connects these memorial buildings with the grave of his beloved mother. Indiana is truly proud of having been the boyhood grounds of the man whose memory is widely revered.

### Underwater Shots

The swimming pool of the new Del Lago hotel in Maracaibo, Venezuela, is equipped with an underwater window thru which camera fans can take pictures of underwater ballets.

